

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA SENATE 65th LEGISLATURE - SPECIAL SESSION**

#### **SELECT COMMITTEE ON JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS**

**Call to Order:** Chair Dee Brown, on November 14, 2017 at 4:00 P.M., in Room 350  
Capitol

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Sen. Dee Brown, Chair (R)  
Sen. Daniel R. Salomon, Vice Chair (R)  
Sen. Carlie Boland (D)  
Sen. Douglas (Doug) Kary (R)  
Sen. Keith Regier (R)  
Sen. Frank Smith (D)  
Sen. Nels Swandal (R)  
Sen. Gene Vuckovich (D)

**Members Excused:** None

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Julianne Burkhardt, Legislative Branch  
Laura Sherley, Committee Secretary

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: SR 1, 11/13/2017; SR 2, 11/13/2017

Executive Action: SR 1 - BE ADOPTED  
SR 2 - BE ADOPTED

**HEARING ON SR 1**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:00:51 Sen. Keith Regier (R), SD 3, opened the hearing on SR 1, Confirm Gubernatorial appointments to the judiciary.

**Olivia Rieger**

00:02:31 Ms Rieger, appointee

00:04:08 Chair Brown

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:04:24 Ryan Rusche, attorney, Columbia Falls

00:05:34 Harold Blattie, Montana Association of Counties

00:06:46 Ed Bartlett, State Bar of Montana

00:07:38 Chair Brown

00:07:41 Blaine Rieger

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:** None

**Donald Harris**

00:08:58 Donald Harris, appointee

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:11:29 Shaun Harris

00:12:24 Mr. Bartlett

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:13:58 Sen. Brown

00:14:33 Mr. Harris

00:15:00 Sen. Brown

00:15:44 Mr. Harris

00:17:57 Sen. Brown

**David Sandler**

00:18:46 Wendy Cash, Workers Compensation Court, on behalf of David Sandler, appointee

**EXHIBIT(jas02a01)**

00:19:27 Sen. Brown

**Proponents' Testimony:** None

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:19:54 Sen. Swandal

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:20:13 Sen. Regier

00:20:33 Sen. Brown

00:20:47 **Motion:** Sen. Swandal moved that **SR 1 BE ADOPTED.**

**Discussion:**

00:20:57 Sen. Brown

00:21:11 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

## **HEARING ON SR 2**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:21:29 Sen. Keith Regier (R), SD 3, opened the hearing on SR 2, Confirm Chief Justice appointment to Water Court.

00:22:03 William Russ McElyea, appointee

00:23:08 Sen. Brown

00:23:11 Mr. McElyea

00:24:42 Sen. Brown

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:24:52 Krista Lee Evans, Senior Water Rights Coalition and Association of Gallatin  
Agriculture Irrigations

00:25:54 Mr. Bartlett

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:** None

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:27:13 Sen. Regier

00:27:19 Sen. Brown

00:27:29     **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Swandal moved that **SR 2 BE ADOPTED**. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 4:46 PM

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Laura Sherley, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT**([jas02aad.pdf](#))